

REMARKS

This amendment timely responds to the final Office Action mailed November 24th, 2006. Prior to entry of this amendment, Claims 1-48 were pending. By this amendment, Claims 1-2, 14, 31, 33, 41, 43, and 46-48 are hereby canceled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits. Claims 3-5, 7, 15-16, 20-21, 25, 32, 34, 36-37, 42, and 44-45 are amended hereby. These amendments do not alter the scope of the claims, but rather are made to rewrite the objected to claims into an allowable format as suggested by the Examiner. After entry of this amendment, Claims 3-13, 15-30, 32, 34-40, 42, and 44-45 remain pending. It is believed by the undersigned that no additional fees are due as the number of independent and total pending claims do not exceed those paid for previously.

In sections 2-3 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 46-48 under 35 USC section 102(e) citing Win, et al. (US 6,804,312)(hereafter "Win"). In section 4 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 25-32, and 37-42 under 35 USC section 103 as being unpatentable over Win in view of Harrison (US 6,434,366)(hereafter "Harrison"). In section 5 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 7, 14-15, 33, 36, 43 and 45 under 35 USC section 103 as being unpatentable over Win in view of Harrison and further in view of Oler, et al. (US 6,031,866)(hereafter "Oler").

In section 6 of the final Office Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 8-13. In section 7, the Examiner stated that Claims 16-24, 34, 35 and 44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicant hereby amends the objected to claims to include all of the limitations of their base and intervening claims. Specifically, Applicant hereby amends objected to Claim 16. Claim 16 has been amended to independent form and now includes all of the limitations of its previous base claim (Claim 46) and all of its previous intervening claims (Claims 1, 2, and 14). Claims 20-21 are hereby amended to now be dependent upon amended Claim 16. It is respectfully submitted that objected to Claims 17-24 therefore are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on amended independent Claim 16. Similarly, Applicant hereby amends objected to Claim 34. Claim 34 has been amended to independent form and now includes all of the limitations of its previous base claim (Claim 47) and all of its previous intervening claims (Claims 31 and 33). It is respectfully submitted that objected to Claim 35 therefore is now allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on amended independent Claim 34. Similarly, Applicant hereby amends objected to Claim 44. Claim 44 has been amended to independent form and now includes all of the limitations of its previous base claim (Claim 48) and all of its previous intervening

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claims (Claims 41 and 43). Prompt allowance of amended claims 16, 34 and 44, and their respective dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicant hereby amends Claims 3-5 and 7 to be dependent upon amended Claim 16. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 3-7 are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on amended Claim 16. Prompt allowance of Claims 3-7 is therefore respectfully requested. Similarly, Claim 15 is amended hereby to now be dependent upon amended Claim 16. It is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 15 is therefore allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on amended Claim 16. Prompt allowance of Claim 15 is therefore respectfully requested. Similarly, Claim 25 is hereby amended to be dependent upon amended Claim 16. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 25-30 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on amended Claim 16. Similarly, Claim 37 is hereby amended to be dependent upon amended Claim 16. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 37-40 are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on amended Claim 16.

Claims 32 and 36 are hereby amended to be dependent upon amended Claim 34, and it is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 32 and 36 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on amended Claim 34. Claims 42 and 45 are hereby amended to be dependent upon amended Claim 44, and it is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 42 and 45 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on amended Claim 44. Prompt allowance of these amended claims is therefore respectfully requested.

The amendments made herein are strictly for the purpose of expediting the prompt allowance of the subject application. Applicant is pleased to place the subject application into condition for immediate allowance by conforming the application to the requirements set forth by the Examiner in sections 6-7 of the final Office Action. For the record, nonetheless, Applicant respectfully declines to concede the grounds for rejection set forth by the Examiner in sections 2-5 of the final Office Action, and more generally reserves the right to later contest any and all such grounds for rejection. The allowed claims therefore should be given the broadest possible scope in view of the art cited by the Examiner, and no narrowing interpretation or limitation should be read into the claims based upon this Amendment.

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Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the remarks set forth above demonstrate that each and every claim, as presently pending, overcomes each grounds of rejection set forth by the Examiner. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, and, barring the discovery of new grounds for rejection, to promptly issue a Notice of Allowance of all claims.

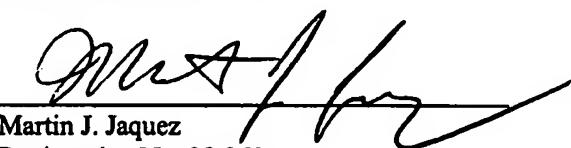
The Commissioner is authorized to construe this paper as including a petition to extend the period for response by the number of months necessary to make this paper timely filed. Fees or deficiencies required to cause the response to be complete and timely filed may be charged, and any overpayments should be credited, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0490.

Respectfully submitted,

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